



AF/1725/TFV
RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
May 29, 2007

Applicants: Yutaka MIYAMOTO et al

For: BUTT WELDING APPARATUS AND BUTT WELDING METHOD

Serial No.: 10/523 579 Group: 1725

Confirmation No.: 1367

Filed: January 28, 2005 Examiner: Kerns

International Application No.: PCT/JP2004/007743

International Filing Date: May 28, 2004

Atty. Docket No.: 2114.P0012US

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182.CB UP

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
AND
PETITION FOR CONSIDERATION**

Sir:

In compliance with the provisions of Rules 1.97(d)(1) and 1.98, Applicants respectfully petition for consideration of the prior art enclosed herewith and listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed.

In compliance with the provisions of Rule 97(e)(1), enclosed herewith is a copy of a reference cited in a further examination report by the EPO while examining the EP application which corresponds to U.S. Serial No. 10/486 273.

(Please see following page.)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on May 29, 2007.

Terrence F. Chapman

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1382. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

IN DUPLICATE


Terryence F. Chapman

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	Donald J. Wallace	Reg. No. 43 977
	Sidney B. Williams, Jr.	Reg. No. 24 949

Encl: Form PTO-1449 and reference cited thereon
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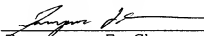
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INFORMATION

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Group: ~~1725~~ 1793

Date: May 29, 2007

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document Number - Kind Code	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant
	AA			
	AB			
	AC			
	AD			
	AE			
	AF			
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	AJ			
	AK			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Country Code - Document Number - Kind Code	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Trans.
/KPK/	AL	GB 867 588	05-10-1961	Societe Nationale de Constructions Aeronautiques du Nord	English
	AM				
	AN				

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	(Include Author, Title, Date, Pages, Etc.)
	AO	
	AP	
EXAMINER SIGNATURE		DATE CONSIDERED
/Kevin Kerns/		04/24/2008

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